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Fearing WRONG

WHY WHAT DOESN'T SCARE US SHOULD

Ipsos Global Views on Violence Against Children December 2014

Ipsos Reid

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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Its 46,000 staff members in nearly 100 countries are committed to working with the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

Ipsos is the second largest survey based research company in the world and the largest such organisation owned and run by researchers. Our global operations extend over 6 continents with offices in 64 countries around the world. Ipsos is pleased to work on projects that bring important social and policy issues to light around the world.

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Acknowledgements

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This report was produced by Dr Kirsty Nowlan and Sharon Marshall, on behalf of the Advocacy and Justice for Children team at World Vision International.

We are grateful to external experts who provided valuable contributions and guidance throughout the process: Dr Philip Cook, Reinhard Fichtl, Lena Karlsson, Alexander Krueger, Nidhi Pundhir, Dr Eddy J Walakira and Dr Mike Wessells,

We would also like to thank Joanne Dunn, Bill Forbes, Dominique Pierre Plateau and Tamara Tutnjevic Gorman for their insights and feedback. We also thank Corina Chevalier for managing the planning, execution and completion of this report

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Cover photo: Moyna, a sex worker, holding daughter Tumpa, 3, looks out the window at a wedding happening below. © 2013 Jon Warren/World Vision

Executive Summary

Violence against children is the most pervasive, dangerous, silent horror of our time. It robs children of the childhood and life they all deserve. And now, more than ever, is the time to change this. For good.

Ending violence against children is not easy, but it is not impossible. Because violence against children is so linked to people's personal lives, their understandings, beliefs and attitudes, perceptions matter as much as facts. Knowing these perceptions and how they shape reality and actions is critical to eliminating violence against children.

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Carlos* and his three-year-old twin sister Estrella* have not seen their father since gang violence forced him to flee, more than a year ago. *Not their real names.

GENERAL ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS

A new survey of the views of more than 11,000 people from 28 countries, led by World Vision and Ipsos Reid, reveals that people around the world think violence against children is a common and growing problem. In some cases, the attitudes and beliefs expressed in responses to the survey questions closely reflect the realities of violence committed against children. In many cases, they do not.

Our survey found:

People around the world believe that violence against children can be tackled if more is done by governments, communities and religious institutions — with a special focus on supporting families. Perhaps most surprising, the majority (62 per cent) of people think that "out there" — public transportation and other public places — is where children are most likely to be at risk.

Prevalence

Globally, more than three quarters (76 per cent) of people know of a child victim of violence, and nearly one third (30 per cent) know one personally. The majority of people (62 per cent) believe the problem has increased in their country over the past five years, and nearly half (45 per cent) feel that not enough is being done to punish those who commit violence against children.

Type

People believe that the most harmful form of violence against children is sexual violence, whether forced prostitution or pornography, sexual assault or luring children online into having sex offline. However, sexual violence is not seen as the most common form of violence. Globally, people say physical punishment, gang violence and physical abuse are the most common forms of violence against children.

The majority of people believe that almost all forms of violence affect both boy and girls to the same degree.

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Causes

Three quarters of people think internal factors and individual experiences, such as a lack of knowledge about violence against children, a history of past abuse and substance abuse are the most common causes of violence against children. External factors such as poverty, cultural practices, organised crime, terrorism and abuse by armed forces are less often seen as causes of violence against children.

Who can fix it

Families and governments are seen as the most important in solving the problem. But of the two, only families are seen as being effective in actually addressing it. Others often seen as effective include social workers and social welfare agencies and schools.

On the other hand, governments, including justice systems, religious institutions and cultural or community leaders are all seen as less effective in addressing violence against children. The majority of people say that governments lack political will and the resources to effectively address the problem.

Differences around the world

The research shows, understandably, that perspectives on violence against children vary widely from one country to another, even among fairly similar countries. However, clear patterns emerge among the 28 countries surveyed when they are grouped into economic clusters.

People in lower-middle-income countries (Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Philippines) perceive violence against children as a present reality in their lives, and hope for progress, no matter who delivers it. They tend to believe it is a problem that can be solved. But they lack faith in the ability, the willingness and the resources available to their governments to help fix the problem.

In upper-middle-income countries, (Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Thailand) people are both familiar with violence against children and confident that it is a problem that can be solved. They see a clear role for governments, NGOs and religious organisations to collaborate and, within their lifetimes, "solve" or at least significantly reduce the incidence of violence against children.

© 2012 Congo (Democratic Republic of)/World Vision

Mining is one of the worst forms of child labor. The heavy work can permanently damage growing child's bones and muscles. Minerals mined are often hazardous and exposure to uranium and mercury can have profound health effects.

Among people in wealthier nations (Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, UK, US) surveyed, there is a sense of distance from the issue overall, a perception that violence against children is a problem for which there is not a real solution. They are less likely to know of violence against

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children in their community and more likely to say the children they know are safe. In line with this, they are less likely to say more should be done and less likely to see the efforts of governments, in particular, as effective or important.

People have a good understanding of the effects of violence against children but perhaps most disturbingly, 79 per cent of people around the world feel that most violence against children goes unreported; what we know about violence prevalence is just a fraction of what is really happening.

There is a real lack of global understanding and evidence of people's perceptions of violence against children. And it is one of the key factors holding us back from solving the problem, because public perceptions of the prevalence, causes and solutions to violence against children all shape efforts to address the issue. This survey is just the beginning. It should serve as a starting point for further work on understanding where violence affects children, why and how, what progress has been made and what more needs to be further done to prevent it happening. For good.

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15-year-old Rani* was arranged to be married into the same family as her older sister because her parents could only afford to pay one dowry. Rani's father explains, "Society dictates and we have to obey. If we don't give a dowry, our family would be ridiculed and shamed. Our family would be talked about and ostracised. Our daughter would be mentally tormented. This torment could also lead to physical abuse like hitting and beating." *Not her real name.

Introduction

World Vision and Ipsos Reid conducted research around the world to better understand public attitudes and perceptions about violence against children and how to protect them. Before conducting this study surprisingly very little was known about variations in attitudes between countries, and regions, and gaps in people's understanding versus what we know from data about actual incidence of violence.

The study sought to understand the attitudes and beliefs that shape perspectives on violence against children around the world. In some cases, the attitudes and beliefs expressed in responses to the survey questions closely reflect the realities of violence committed against children. In many cases, they do not. Understanding public opinion in this area can help World Vision and other organisations address harmful myths about violence against children that can frustrate solutions.

Why this study is important to World Vision

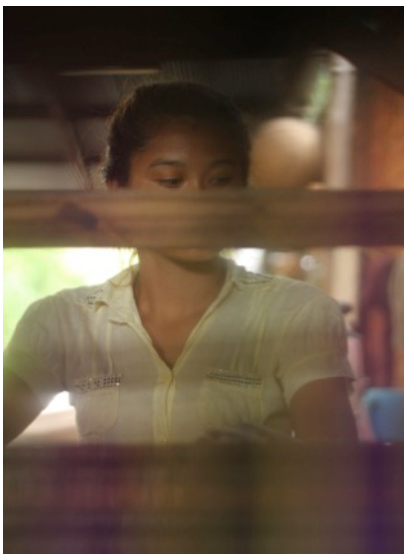
Throughout our 60 years of service to children and their families, World Vision has seen the dire effects of the failure to protect children from violence. Violence can result in short- and long-term physical injuries, damage a child's sense of confidence and security, and contribute to a lifetime of mental, psychological, social and other developmental challenges. This universal threat to children's safety and security is eroding the potential of children to contribute to and grow healthy and productive societies.

Addressing and ending violence against children as well as working for the care and protection of children who have been harmed, has long been an important component of World Vision's work. In our programmes, World Vision places strong emphasis on working with families, communities and governments at local and national levels to strengthen formal and non-formal aspects of child protection systems. As with other seemingly intractable challenges that World Vision has faced, violence against children is an issue where real progress can be realised. However, this will only be possible if it is brought to the forefront among governments, opinion leaders, communities and families themselves.

Over the last 15 years World Vision has worked to help governments realise the Millennium Development Goals. These efforts have largely focused on survival and the provision of basic needs. Protection from violence was not part of global development goals. By bringing stronger focus to violence against children in the current discussions on the post-2015 agenda, we hope to go beyond survival to address issues that prevent children from thriving, and in turn, erode economic, social and family stability.

Why this study is important to Ipsos

Ipsos has a far-reaching network of public opinion survey experts around the world who are usually tasked with finding opinion information to improve the bottom lines of business or understand what will sway political action. We are pleased to use this network in a study that has such promise for social good.



© Vanndeth Um / World Vision

"He scared me with his scary face – I didn't tell anyone." Sros*, 10, was raped when she was working in a rice field in Cambodia with her mother. At 15, she finally received help to start rebuilding her life. *Not her real name.

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The biggest questions we had at the outset of this project were about people's perceptions of how often violence against children happens in their country, what is currently being done to address violence against children, and what attitudes are towards the efforts made to put an end to violence against children.

METHODOLOGY

World Vision and Ipsos Reid conducted research in developed, upper-middle-income, lower-middle-income and fragile countries to better understand public opinion when it comes to protecting children from violence.

The key objectives of this research were to:

- Assess public opinion, perception, concern and understanding of violence against children;
- Measure people's awareness of and attitudes about the problem, and their perception of government and other stakeholders' responsibilities to end violence;
- Identify people's main sources of information about children affected by violence; and
- Understand people's perception of current causes of and solutions to violence against children.

The study consisted of a 15 to 20 minute survey asked of 11,331 individuals, 16 years of age and older, in 12 languages across 28 different countries in July and August of 2014.

While in many countries the survey was administered online, in Lebanon, Pakistan, El Salvador, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Bangladesh, the survey was administered in-person.

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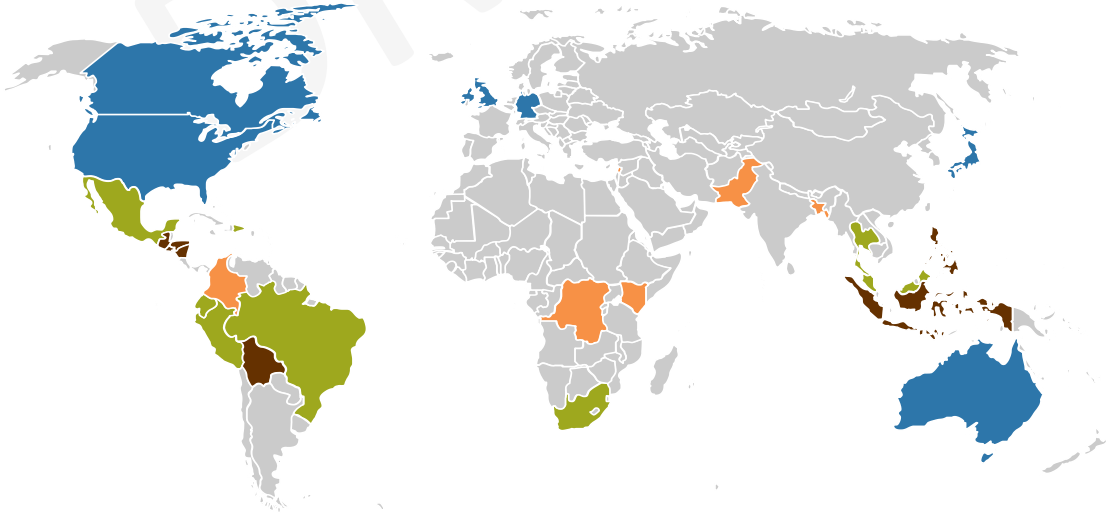

Developed: GNI per capita of $12,746 or more
Upper-Middle-Income Countries: GNI per capita of $4,125 to $12,745
Lower-Middle-Income Countries: GNI per capita of $1,046 to $4,124
Fragile States: GNI per capita of $1,045 or less. Fragile states also include countries in which governments are unable to assure territorial control, security, public resource management, child and social protection, service delivery and livelihoods support. Cyclical conflict, criminal violence and vulnerability to natural disasters are prevalent.

The Lies We Tell Ourselves

Overall, the frequency and effects of violence against children are viewed fairly similarly across each of the countries surveyed.

No one said that sexual assault and other sex-related crimes against children aren't at all harmful, and most see them as having a long-lasting impact. However, one in five people don't recognise that all forms of violence are harmful to children. For example, 21 per cent don't believe that child marriage is harmful.

The survey results showed that there is often, though not always, a discrepancy between what danger people think children are vulnerable to and what they are actually exposed to. There are discrepancies, as well, in their perceptions of trends. This varies, of course, depending on the country, age group and personal experience –those who know a child victim of violence, for example, are more likely to feel that violence against children is not something that can be addressed in their life time and that it has become more frequent in the past five years.

"… discrepancy between what danger people think children are vulnerable to and what they are actually exposed to"

LOCATION

Perception

Children are most at risk in public places or on public transportation.

Reality

Immediate family members are the most common perpetrators of all forms of abuse, accounting for 34 per cent of reported cases where the perpetrator was known.[1]

INCREASING VIOLENCE

Perception

61 per cent feel that in the past five years violence against children in their country has increased.

Reality

The results are mixed, but some forms of violence are decreasing. Harmful traditional practices are declining; there are fewer child labourers than 12 years ago;[2] and the proportion of girls forced into early marriage is better than in the 1980s.[3]

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[1] UNICEF (2014). *Hidden in Plain Sight*
[2] UNICEF (2014). *Ending Child Marriage: Progress and prospects*
[3] Ibid

MOST COMMON FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Perception

Physical and sexual forms of violence are the most common.

Reality

Globally, one in four girls aged 15 to 19 have been victims of some form of physical violence. Around 120 million girls worldwide have experienced sexual violence.[4]

CHILD LABOUR

Perception

79 per cent believe child labour is harmful, but 28 per cent of people do not believe that harm will have a long-lasting impact.

Reality

Child labour affects a child's long-term health, and the development of their cognitive skills, damaging their educational ability and long-term prospects.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Perception

29 per cent of people say that forced child marriage doesn't have a long-lasting impact.

Reality

Girls who marry under the age of 15 are five times more likely to die during child birth than those who marry in their 20s, and their chances education and literacy chances are lower, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.[5]

CYBERBULLYING

Perception

In developed countries, cyberbullying is the most common form of violence against children.

Reality

Physical, and sexual abuse is often more common than cyberbullying.[6]

[4] UNICEF (2014). *Hidden in Plain Sight*
[5] Ibid
[6] Ibid

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GANG VIOLENCE

Perception

In middle-income countries, gang violence is the most common form of violence against children.

Reality

Gang violence is the most common cause of violence against children in a number of middle-income countries.[7]

HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

Perception

Harmful traditional practices such as witchcraft and child marriage is seen as the most common source of violence in fragile contexts.

Reality

Often, other forms of violence against children are much more pervasive. In the DRC, for example, over one in five girls aged 15-19 have experienced forced sexual intercourse.[8]

GENDER DIFFERENCES

Perception

Cyberbullying affects mostly girls.

Reality

There is increasing evidence that cyberbullying affects both girls and boys, and that both are just as likely to act as bullies.[9]

Perception

No form of violence affects mostly boys.

Reality

Boys are more affected by gang violence and child labour – 99.8 million boys versus 68.2 million girls between the age of 5-17 are involved in child labour.

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[7] UNICEF (2014). *Hidden in Plain Sight*
[8] Ibid
[9] NoBulllying.com (2014): Cyber Bullying Statistics; Dr Sarah Pedersen, Robert Gordon University (2011), UK Teens' safety awareness online – Is it a girl thing?

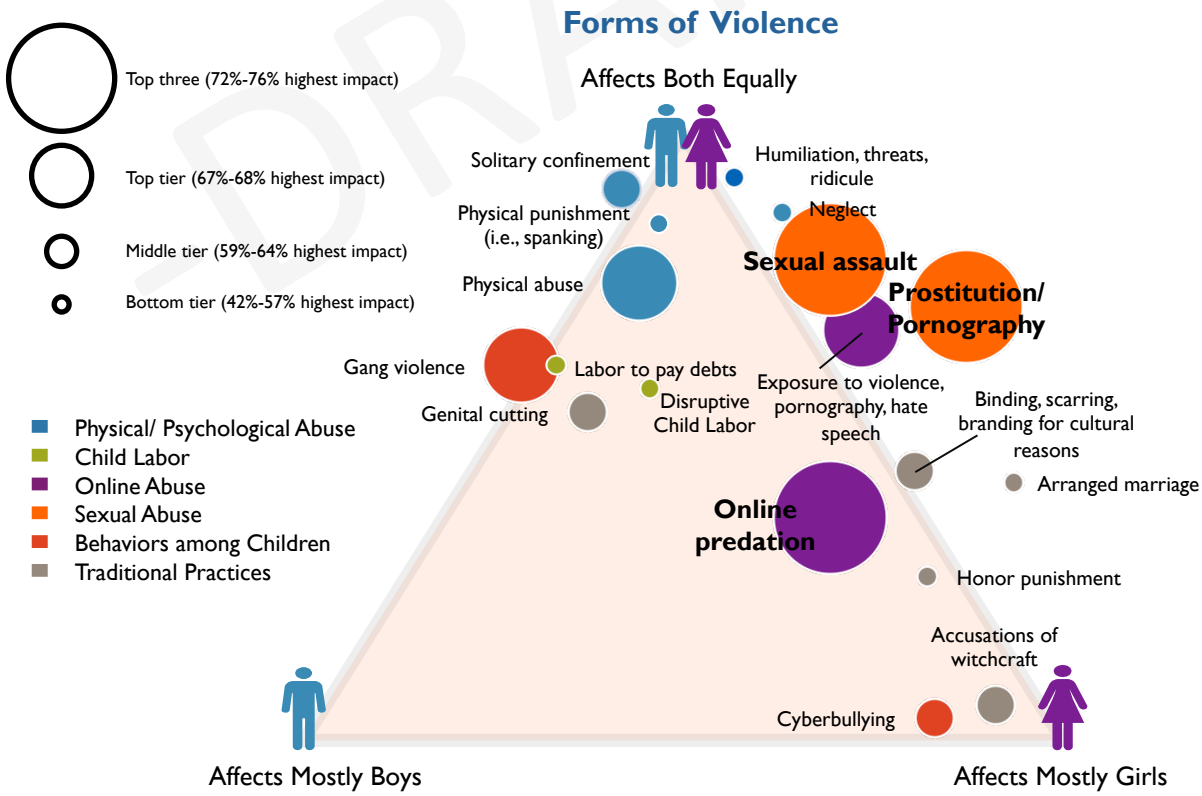
WHAT THIS TELLS US

Evidence and experience tells us that children face the biggest risks to their safety and security in the home environment, in the very place they should be the safest. Yet, people still believe that their children are most vulnerable when they're "out there". This fear of the other, the bad person who lurks in the shadows ready to cause misery for children, is a typical perception that hampers our ability to reduce violence against children globally.

By helping families, community leaders, religious leaders and governments to understand that the biggest risk to children is not from strangers, and in public places, we could go a long way to solving this problem.

And solving this problem means focusing attention and funding on ensuring children are safe in places where they should be most safe; at home, schools, in places of worship, and playgrounds. This also entails working directly with families and communities, and above all children themselves, as partners in reducing and preventing violence. Such approaches reflect what children themselves tell us.[10]

Perceptions about gender are revealing. The perception – that almost all forms of violence affects both boys and girls to the same degree – contrasts the existing evidence that girls are more affected by most forms of violence, but that specific forms of violence (such as involvement in gangs) affect boys more. This shows that more needs to be done to understand gender dynamics of violence against children, especially among boys. They are critical stakeholders because they both experience and perpetrate violence, and they must be part of the solution.



[10] World Vision International (2011). *What do children think? Children's views on being cared for, protected and participating*

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Perhaps most worryingly, people don't understand that all forms of violence may have long-lasting effects on children. So often, we hear that 'children are extraordinarily resilient', even when they are subjected time and again to violence. While resilience helps, we know that exposure to prolonged, frequent physical, emotional or sexual violence and neglect causes toxic stress in children, which can seriously damage children's brains, increasing the risk of developmental delays as well as stress-related health problems, such as heart disease, substance abuse and depression, later in life.[11]

An accurate understanding of the long-term consequences and costs of violence against children would result in increased efforts to prevent violence against children from happening. However, the amounts of time and money governments spend on enforcement mechanisms, which is often inadequate treatment after the fact, dwarves the amount spent on prevention. Investment in enforcement without prevention is ineffective. Instead, focusing our investment, time and attention on supporting and equipping families, especially those at risk, with the resources, providing access to services, changing societal norms, will far better help prevent violence against children.

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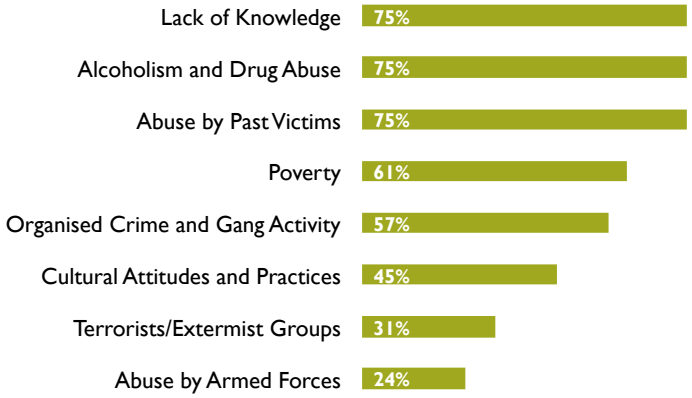
Joshua, 16, from New York, was in sixth grade when he became a gang member. For a while, he thought of the gang as his family. After getting involved with a local community programme, Joshua has distanced himself from the gang members and is now committed to making his community a better place for his younger siblings.

[11] W W Hartup and N Stevens (1997). *Friendships and Adaptation in the Life Course*, Psychological Bulletin vol 121, no 3; K H Rubin et al (2004). *Attachment, Friendship, and Psychosocial Functioning in Early Adolescence*, The Journal of Early Adolescence vol 24, no 4

The Wrong-Doers

What are the causes of violence against children?



Violence against children is caused by a variety of influences. People believe a lack of knowledge of the issue, alcoholism and drug abuse, and experience of past abuse as the main causes of violence against children.

Most (87%) agree that victims of violence as children feel a profound impact as adults in their social relationships, and three in four say that past experience of violence as a child are a main cause (75%), highlighting the common perception of the cyclical nature of abuse.

A lack of knowledge by those who are best positioned to witness or do something to prevent it is seen as the strongest cause of violence against children (75% agree, 41% strongly agree), while alcoholism and drug abuse (75% agree, 39% strongly agree), and abuse by past victims (75% agree, 38% strongly agree) follows close behind.

Other perceived causes are dependent on the country context, where cultural attitudes (16%), terrorist groups (14%) or armed forces (10%) may be more present factors contributing to violence against children.

Countries where the armed forces are seen as having a stronger role in causing violence against children include the Democratic Republic of Congo (49%) followed more distantly by El Salvador (23%), Lebanon (21%) and Colombia (19%). Terrorist and extremist groups are seen as a key cause of violence against children in Pakistan (50%) and Colombia (40%). Cultural attitudes and practices are seen as a larger threat in El Salvador (47%) Pakistan (39%) and Kenya (30%).

People's perceptions of the individual, personal drivers of violence against children highlight the role of cultural attitudes and behaviours, in addition to the effects of extra stresses placed on families on top of everyday stresses, which in and of themselves are often as much as families can cope with.

Regardless of whether the driver of the violence being committed against a child is internal or external, a critical part of the solution is empowering the people most familiar to children – in homes, schools, places of worship – and children themselves.

And it can be tackled in part by investing in supporting the skills and knowledge of children, parents, peers and changing social attitudes.

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Righting The Wrongs

Across the world, men are slightly more likely to feel that a lot is being done to prevent violence against children than women. Respondents from fragile countries are more likely to feel that a lot is being done, compared to fairly low levels of this belief in lower and upper-middle-income countries.

The majority of respondents agree that the government has a responsibility to address violence against children. Over 80 per cent of those from lower and upper-middle-income countries feel that the government has a responsibility to protect all children and take steps to prevent violence, while only 69 per cent in developed countries think this.

63% feel their government is not doing enough to punish offenders

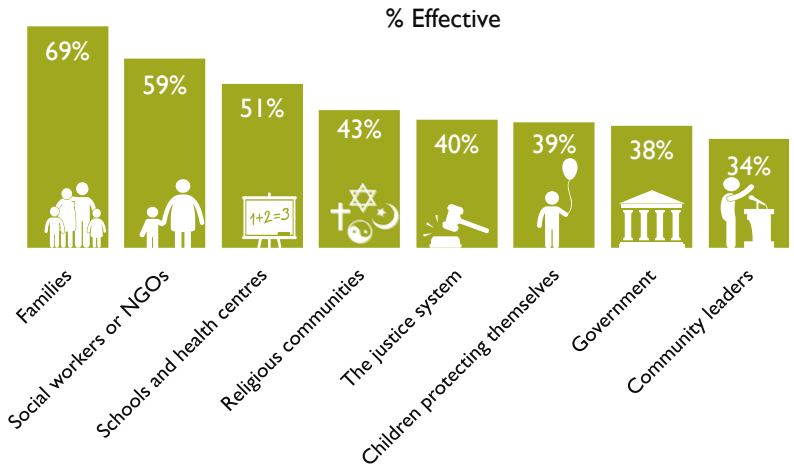
Respondents across the spectrum recognise that their governments don't have the means to prevent violence against children, no matter what the laws are. However, just as many feel that governments are unwilling to take enough action to end violence against children. Almost two in five (37%) of respondents feel that their government is doing enough to punish those who commit violence against children.

While some of the countries that are perceived to be the safest by their citizens, such as the UK and Australia, are less concerned about increasing what is done to protect children in their communities, others feel that much more can be done, such as those in Thailand and Ecuador.

Most people feel that families are both the most effective and most important institution in protecting children against violence. Few are confident in the current level of attention given to preventing violence.

Those from developed countries were more likely to feel families are most effective in combating violence against children (47%), compared to those from fragile countries (25%). The causes of deaths of children in many fragile states often not a direct result of the conflict but more to do with the weakened ability of families and communities to provide what children need. In fragile contexts, families have undergone higher levels of stress and have fewer coping mechanisms left.

Who is most effective in tackling violence against children?



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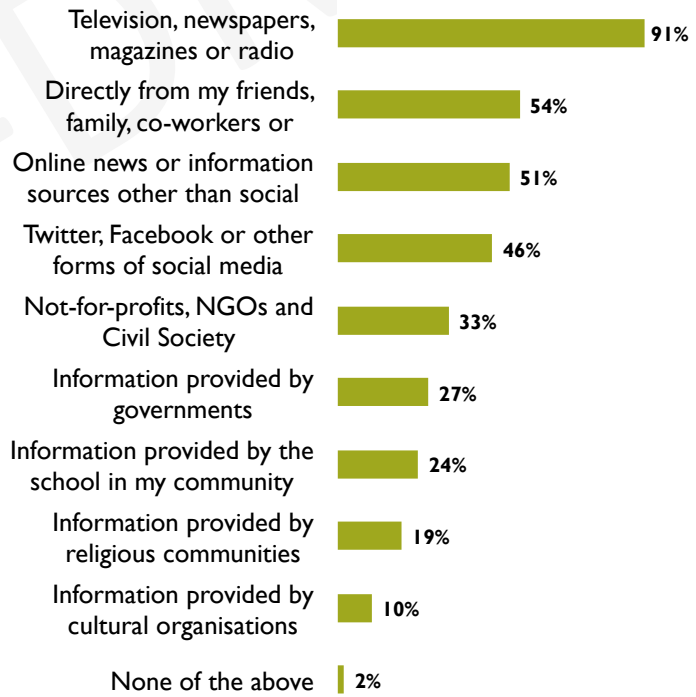
Most people agree (85%) that collaboration between governments, NGOs and religious communities is preferable to each one acting independently. And most say it is important that religious communities do more to address violence against children (76%) where governments have failed to do so. Best-practice current thinking says that everyone – local governments, NGOs, civil society groups, church groups, local traditional leadership, schools, local businesses, police – must work in partnership and collaboration to prevent violence against children.

One-third (34%) of people in developed countries do not feel that their country is safe for children, which may be a result of news reporting of high-profile crimes against children. Fragile states and lower-middle-income countries are seen, by their citizens, as less safe than others, and even those that feel they are safe were more likely than the global average to feel that more should be done.

Overall, people still believe the problem can be overcome, but people's personal experiences of violence against children influences how strongly they feel this, and of what needs to be done. For example, those who don't know of anyone who has been a child victim of violence are less likely to feel that more needs to be done (60%) than those who do know someone who has been a victim (85%).

One of the biggest drivers of people's knowledge that inform their perceptions is the traditional news media: 91 per cent of people hear about violence against children through television, print or radio media. Social media is a more popular source of information among middle-income countries (60%) and lower-middle-income countries (53%) compared to developed countries (25%). This indicates the role of media in shaping public opinions of people, and the likelihood that people form their understanding of the problem based on what is newsworthy.

How did you hear about violence against children?



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Cultural and social norms are highly influential in shaping the behaviour of individuals. Norms can protect against violence but can also support and encourage the use of it. For instance, cultural acceptance of violence either as a normal method of resolving conflict or as a usual part of child rearing is a risk factor for all types of interpersonal violence.[12] It may also explain why countries experiencing high levels of one type of violence also experience increased levels of other types of violence.[13]

Social tolerance of violent behavior is learned in childhood through the use of corporal punishment, witnessing violence in the family and in the media.[14] Interventions that challenge cultural and social norms supportive of violence can significantly help reduce and prevent violence in a sustainable way.

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This photo was taken by a child photographer as part of the World Vision Photovoice Project – a project that enables children to use photography as a way to tell their stories and advocate for the rights of vulnerable children in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The focus of their photographs include physical punishment (depicted here), verbal abuse, bullying and child trafficking.

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[12] WHO (2002). World report on violence and health
[13] J E Lansford and K A Dodge (2008). Cultural norms for adult corporal punishment of children and societal rates of endorsement and use of violence, Parenting: Science and Practice
[14] J G Johnson et al (2002). Television viewing and aggressive behaviour during adolescence and adulthood, Science

Conclusion

There is a real lack of global understanding and evidence of people's perceptions of violence against children. And it's holding us back from solving the problem.

Understanding perceptions helps us to understand where and how to increase public and political commitment to address what causes and drives violence against children. It's only when we know what people think, and what influences that thinking, that we know where change needs to happen. This is critical to break the culture of tolerance and acceptance that has long prevented us from meaningfully addressing the problem.

Using surveys such as this one to inform and target work more effectively to identify who needs to be influenced to prevent and change things is crucial. Knowing where perceptions differ from realities, where the opportunities for change are, and which institutions and structures people trust to effect that change, are fundamental to preventing and addressing violence.

This global survey confirmed the universality and seriousness of the problem of violence against children, illustrated the importance of changing perceptions, attitudes and beliefs that have long allowed problem to persist, and highlighted the imperative to invest in families as the most effective and powerful agents to prevent violence.

The findings call for greater recognition by policy makers of violence against children as a global development problem that requires urgent action. The lived experiences of children often differ from what the survey results show is commonly perceived. This gap between perception and reality suggests that we need to shift the bar from responses predominantly focused on law enforcement towards prevention. Such a change would include recognising the critical roles that families, communities and children themselves play in preventing violence and the need for governments, faith communities, media and other institutions to support them.

Ending violence against children requires all of us to change the way we see and understand it. Children should be growing up in safe nurturing environments, free of fear and free to fulfill their potential. This is achievable, if all schools, places of worship, parents, and governments step up their existing efforts to stop violence against children. We want them to stand up and say, once and for all: "I won't accept violence against children." Because we won't.

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Recommendations

Based on the picture this survey paints, combined with the reality we know from our work with children affected by violence across the world, World Vision believes violence against children can be ended. But this requires governments to invest in proven strategies that work in partnerships with communities, families, religious institutions and civil society. These strategies include:

1. Challenging the attitudes, beliefs and traditions that perpetuate and tolerate violence against children. No adult in a position of power should be willing to accept violence against children on their watch.

2. Governments demonstrating their commitment to ending violence against children by implementing laws and policies that protect children from all forms of violence.

3. Supporting families, parents and caregivers to protect and care for their children, by investing in parental support programmes and support services for children and families at risk.

4. Empowering children so they can make themselves safer. Governments and communities need to recognise the key role children can play in preventing violence and not see them only as victims or perpetrators.

5. Ensuring every child has someone and somewhere to turn to when things go wrong.

6. When violence against children is discussed in media and social media, governments, NGOs and those in positions of power working to create a more realistic, positive and solutions-oriented public conversation.

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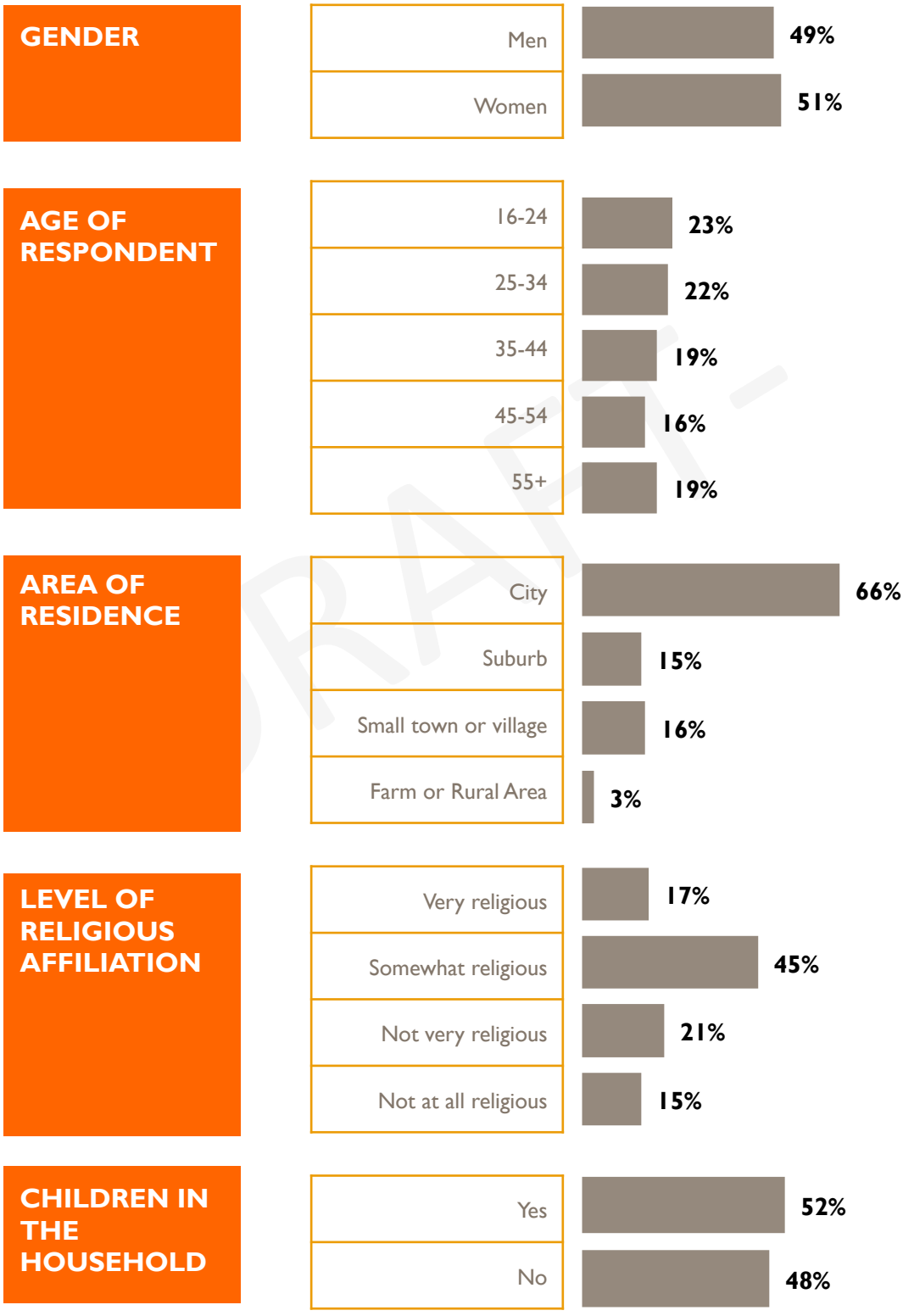
Demographic Profile of Respondents



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Questionnaire Key

#	Question
Q1	How harmful to children would you consider each of the following to be on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means not at all harmful and 7 means very harmful? Forms of Violence List (See Page 29)
Q2	In which of the following locations do you think children are most likely to be at risk of violence? And, in which do you think children are least likely to be at risk of violence? In the home School Religious settings Public transportation In other public settings outside the home Don't Know
Q3a	How much impact do you think each of the following forms of violence have on children in your country? By impact, we mean the extent to which it has a lasting effect on the children in your country who experience that form of violence. Please rate your view on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means very little impact and 7 means very high impact. Forms of Violence List (See Page 29)
Q3b	How often do each of the following forms of violence happen in your country? By often, we mean is it something that commonly occurs or almost never happens. Please rate your view on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means almost never happens and 7 means it is very common. Forms of Violence List (See Page 29)
Q4	And, how do you think each of the following forms of violence against children affects boy and girls in your country? Please indicate whether each form of violence affects boys, mostly affect girls, or does it affect both boys and girls equally? Forms of Violence List (See Page 29)
Q5	How effective are the following institutions in protecting children against violence. Please rate your view on a scale of 1 to 7, where means completely ineffective and 7 means very effective. Government The justice system (police and courts) Social workers or organizations for social welfare, not-for-profits, non-government organizations (NGO) and civil society Clan/tribal leaders and cultural organisations or other community groups Religious communities Schools and health centres or clinics Families Children protecting themselves
Q5a	And which of these is the most important in protecting children against violence? Which is the least important?

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Questionnaire Key

#	Question
Q6	Through which of the following ways have you heard about violence against children in the past? Please choose all that apply. Directly from my friends, family, co-workers or neighbors Television, newspapers, magazines or radio Twitter, Facebook or other forms of social media Online news or information sources other than social media Information provided by governments Information provided by religious communities Information provided by my clan/tribal leaders and cultural organisations Information provided by the school in my community Not-for-profits, Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and Civil Society None of the above
Q7	Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements. a) A main cause of violence against children is a lack of knowledge among people who are close enough to prevent it. b) A main cause of violence against children in my country is poverty c) Dealing with violence against children is something that families should do on their own; others do not need to get involved. d) The main causes of violence against children in my country are cultural attitudes and practices that make it acceptable to many. e) A main cause of violence against children in my country is organized crime or gang activity. f) A main cause of violence against children in my country is terrorist and extremist groups. g) Most violence against children goes unreported so it is hard for anyone to know the extent of the problem. h) Violence against children has a negative effect on children's education. i) Violence against children has a negative effect on children's health. j) Violence against children has large social and economic costs. k) The impact of violence on children could show up in adult life in social relationships. l) A main cause of violence against children in my country is alcoholism and drug use. m) A main cause of violence against children in my country is abuse by armed forces. n) Children hurting other children is a big problem in my country. o) Child violence is often committed by adults who were victims of child violence as children.
Q8	Which of the following statements best describes your personal view when it comes to violence against children? Violence against children is common and cultural, it will take generations to address and I'm not very hopeful that we will see it get better in my lifetime. Violence against children can be reduced in the short term and eventually eliminated if people work together to prevent it and do more to raise awareness of the issue.

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Questionnaire Key

#	Question
Q9	Which of the following statements best describes your personal view when it comes to violence against children? Violence against children has become more frequent in the past 5 years. There have been fewer incidents of violence against children in the past 5 years. Don't know
Q10	To the best of your knowledge would you say that there is a lot being done to prevent violence against children or would you say that not very much is being done to prevent violence against children? A lot Something Not very much Nothing at all Don't know
Q11	Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements. a) I think the children I personally know (including your own if you have children) are safe from violence. b) More needs to be done to protect children from violence in my community. c) Governments often don't have the means to address violence against children, no matter what the laws are. d) Governments are unwilling to take enough action to end violence against children. e) It is important that religious communities and their leaders do more to address violence against children where governments have failed. f) Governments, Not-for-profits, religious communities and local communities need to collaborate to address violence against children, rather than each acting independently. g) My government is doing enough to punish those who commit violence against children. h) Children in my country have access to services and organisations that will help them if they are in crisis. i) Parents in my country have access to services and organisations to turn for help if their family or children are in crisis. j) The news media needs to do more to raise awareness of the issue and inform people about the actions they can take on their own to stop violence against children. k) We need laws that prohibit all forms of physical punishment against children. l) Violence against children is never justifiable. m) It is the responsibility of governments to protect all children and to take steps to prevent violence. n) Children and families should have more say in the policies and programs designed to prevent violence against children. o) Religious communities should be compelled by government or law to address violence against children.

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Questionnaire Key

#	Question
Q12	How safe do you consider your country in terms of each of the following concerns? Please rate your view from a scale of 1 to 7, where 1means not at all safe and 7 means completely safe. Early child marriage Child labour Female genital mutilation Physical punishment Child sexual exploitation Early pregnancy
Q13	Which of the following statements best describes you personally? I know of family members, friends or neighbors who have been the victims of violence against children. I have heard about violence against children in my community but I don't personally know of anyone involved. I am not aware of any violence against children in my community.

#	Demographics
DEM1	Gender
DEM2	Age
DEM3	Please indicate whether your level of income is above average, average or below average compared to the rest of your country.
DEM4	Please indicate whether your level of education is above average, average or below average compared to the rest of your country.
DEM5	Please indicate whether you live in a city, small town, village or farm. City Suburb Small town or village Farm or Rural Area Don't know
DEM6	To what extent would you say that you are a religious person? Very religious Somewhat religious Not very religious Not at all religious Don't know
DEM7	Please answer the following for each of the people who live with you: Enter 0 if the child in your household is under 1 year old. Gender Age

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Forms of Violence

#	Forms of Violence For Q1, Q3a, Q3b, Q4
Physical and Psychological Abuse	Physical abuse that is hard enough to injure a child
	Physical punishment, such as spanking, which is not hard enough to injure a child
	Punishment that humiliates, threatens, scares or ridicules a child
	When a parent or other caregiver fails to meet a child's physical, psychological, developmental or educational needs even when they can afford to do so
	Punishing a child in solitary confinement, isolation or degrading conditions of detention
Traditional Practices	Genital cutting for cultural, traditional or religious reasons
	Binding, scarring, burning or branding children for cultural reasons
	Arranged marriage of a child at an early age
	Acts of physical punishment towards children for the sake of retribution or family and community's honour
	Accusing a child of witchcraft or performing an exorcism on a child
Sexual Behaviours	When an adult or another child forces intercourse or other forms of sex on a child
	Forcing children into prostitution or using children in pornography
Behaviours Among Children	Gang violence
	Bullying or harassment online or over mobile devices (known as "cyberbullying")
Child Labour	Making a child do work that may disrupt their education and/or physical, mental or social development
	Making a child work to pay off family debts
Online Predators	Exposing a child to violence, pornography or hate-speech online, on television or through other media
	Tricking or luring a child on the internet into meeting strangers off-line for sex

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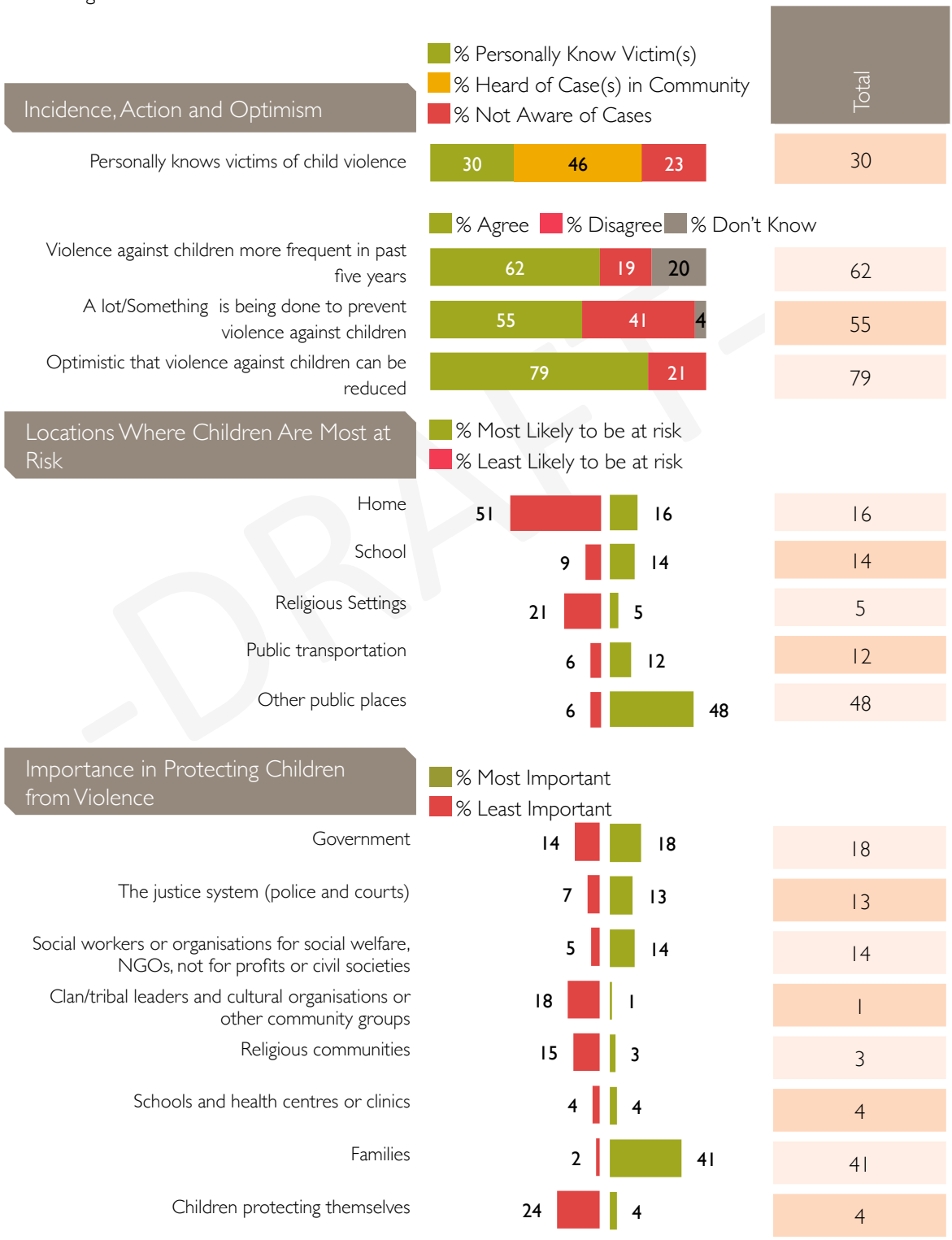
Results in Detail*

*Please note that the per cents reported in the Results in Detail may not always total to 100% due to rounding.



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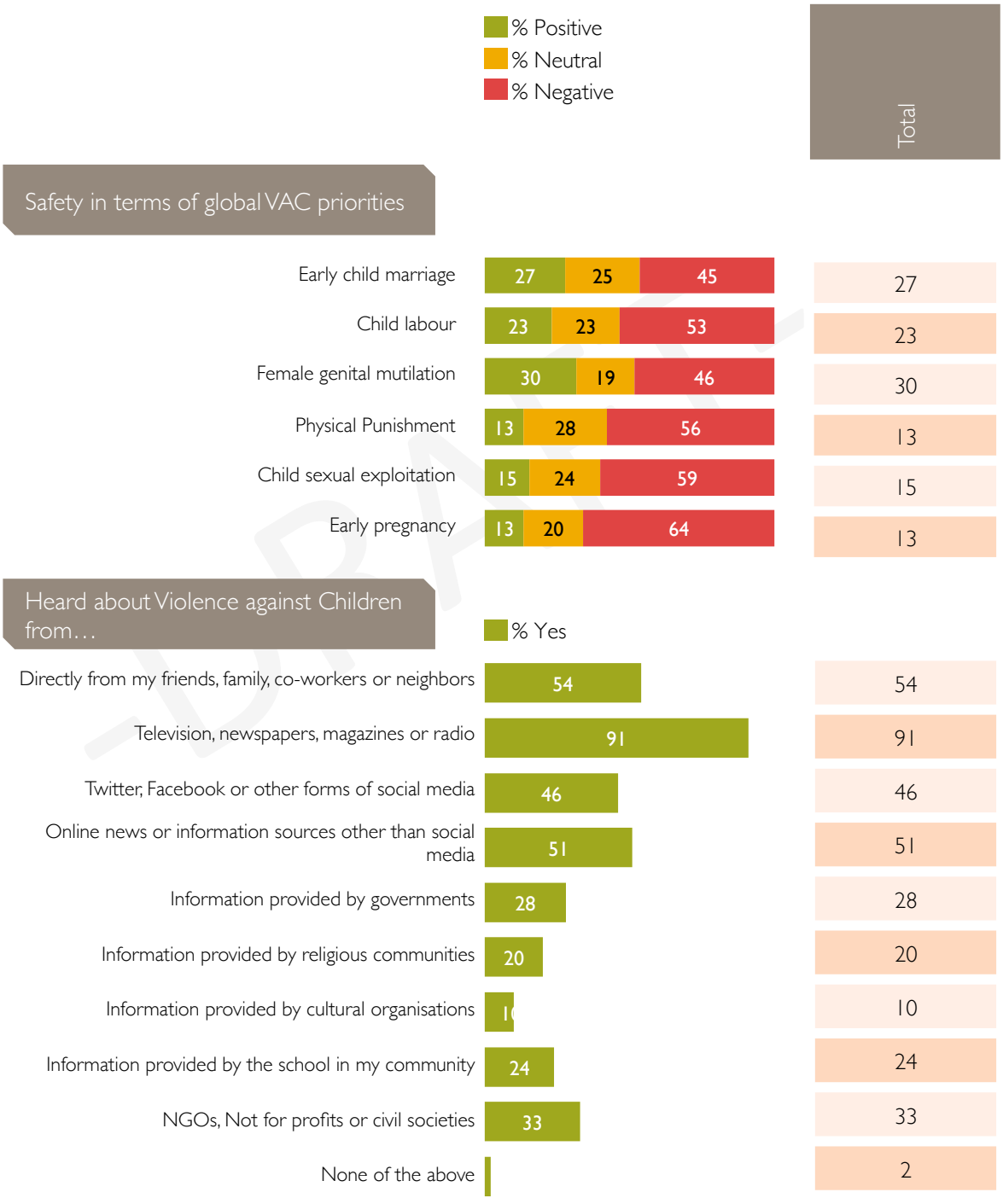
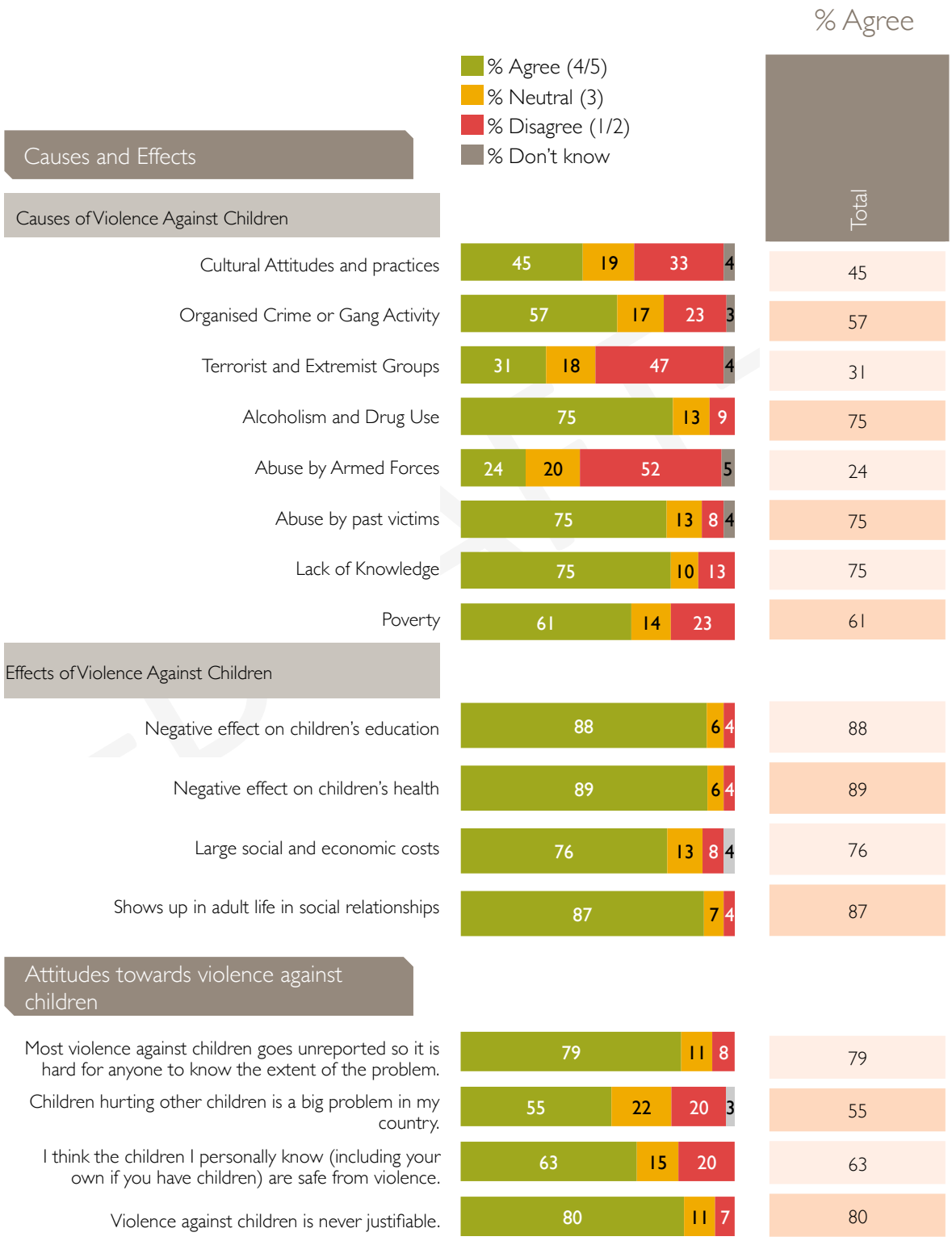
Results in Detail

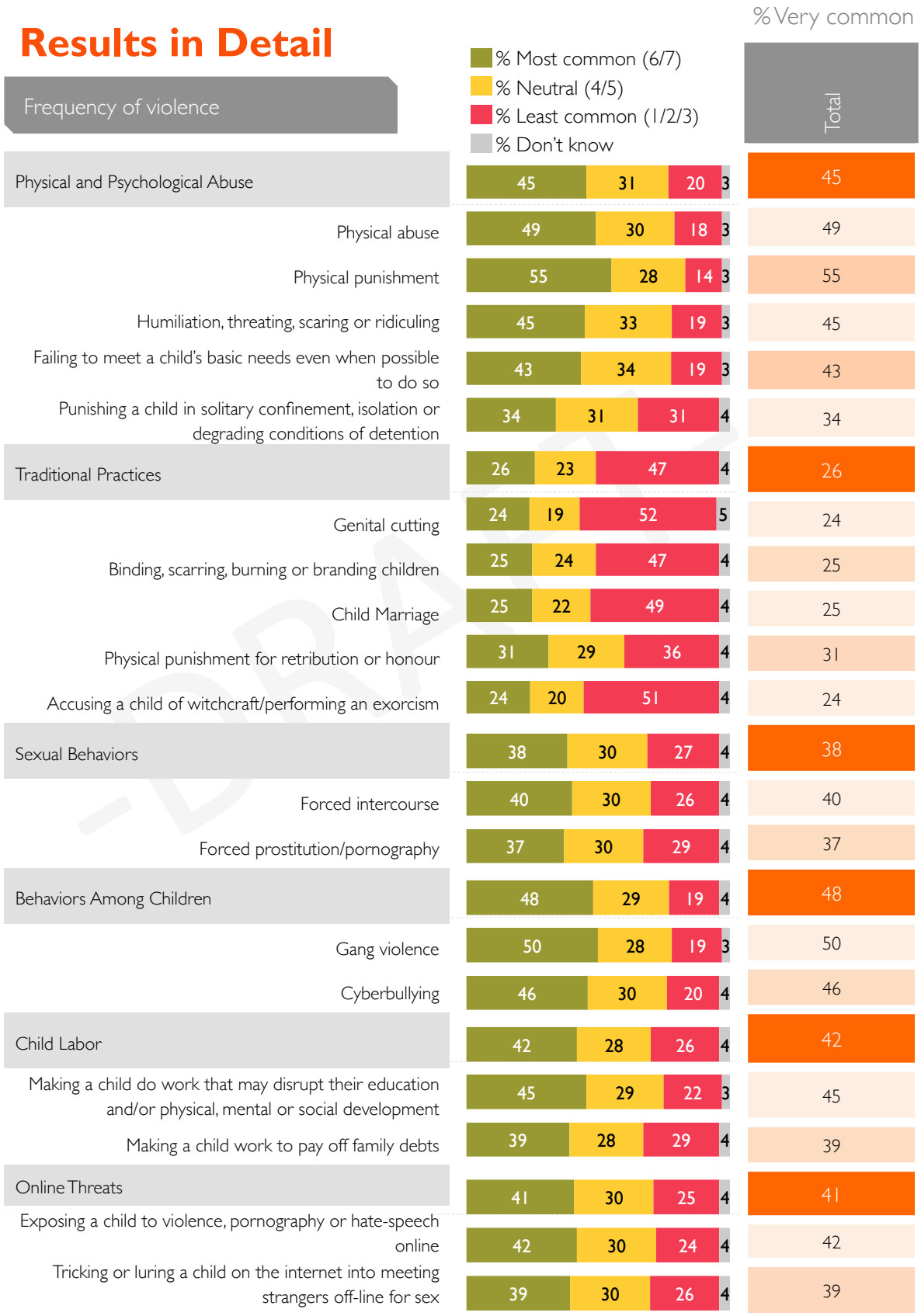


Results in Detail



Results in Detail

Results in Detail



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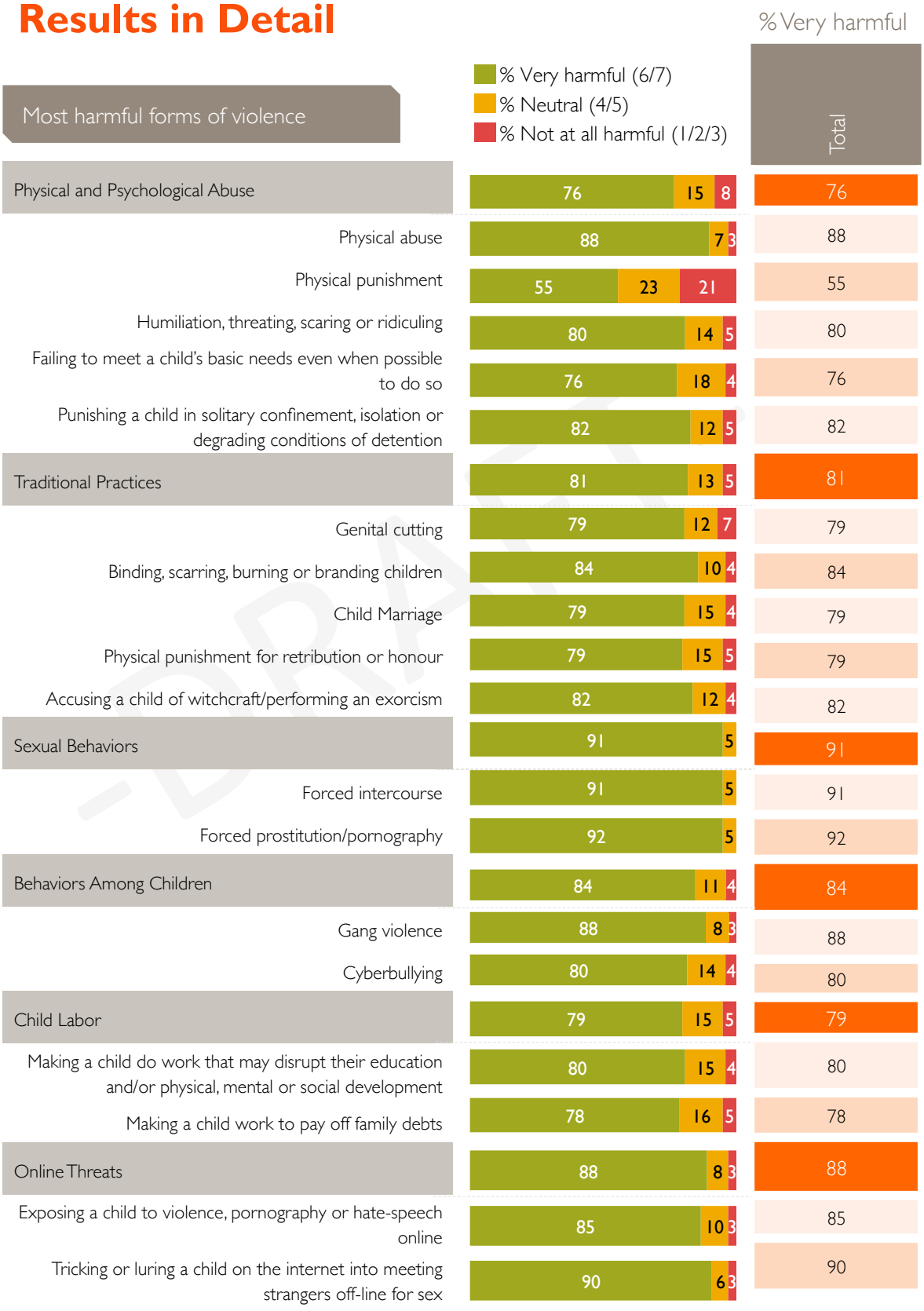
Results in Detail



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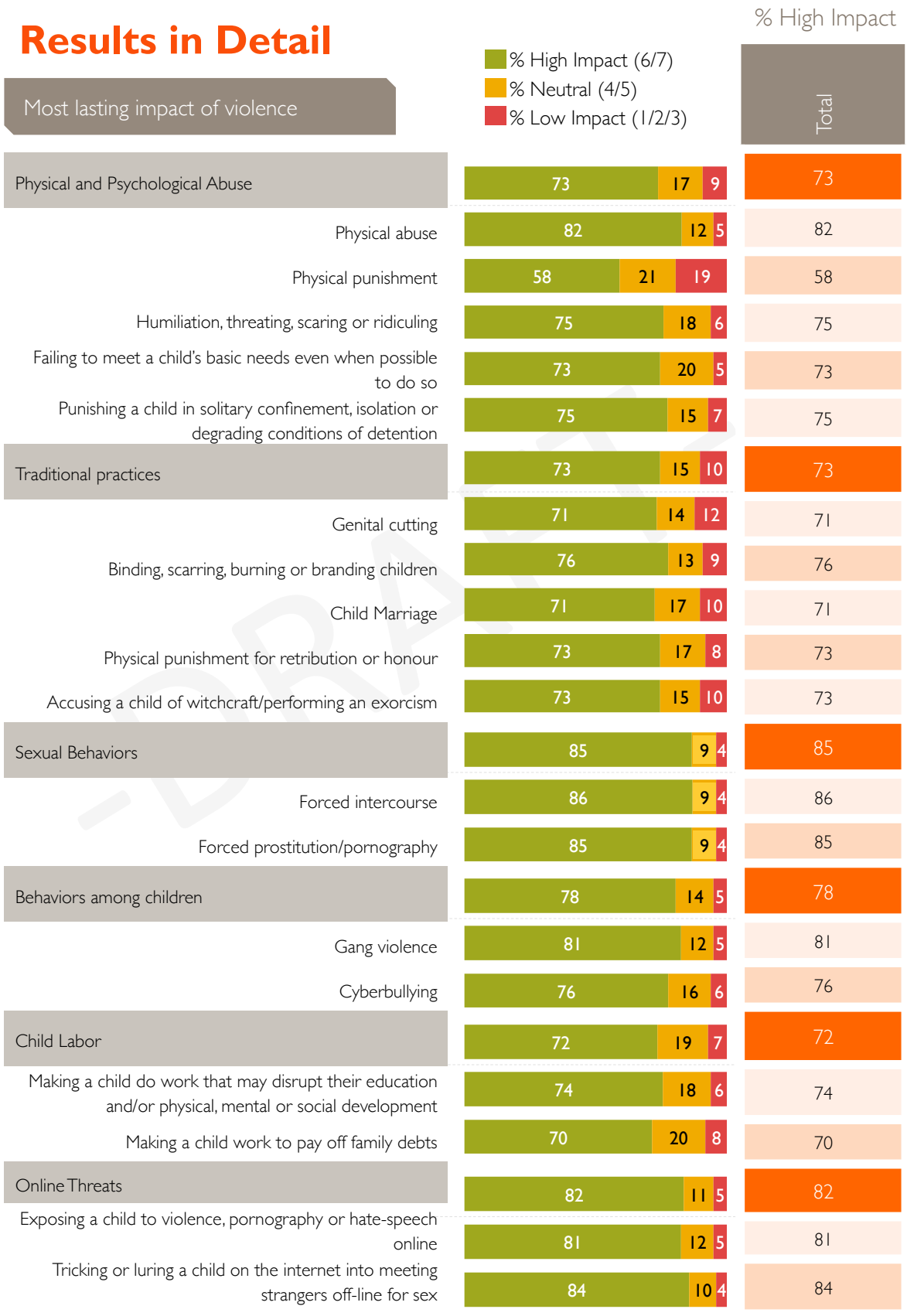
Results in Detail



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Results in Detail

Most lasting impact of violence

	% Mostly Affects		
	Total		
Physical and Psychological Abuse	8	80	8
Physical abuse	10	79	8
Physical punishment	9	80	7
Humiliation, threating, scaring or ridiculing	6	82	8
Failing to meet a child's basic needs even when possible to do so	4	83	8
Punishing a child in solitary confinement, isolation or degrading conditions of detention	11	76	7
Traditional practices	9	54	22
Genital cutting	20	37	26
Binding, scarring, burning or branding children	8	65	11
Child Marriage	2	38	47
Physical punishment for retribution or honour	9	67	14
Accusing a child of witchcraft/performing an exorcism	4	63	12
Sexual Behaviors	3	53	39
Forced intercourse	3	58	35
Forced prostitution/pornography	2	49	44
Behaviors among children	20	62	14
Gang violence	35	54	7
Cyberbullying	5	70	20
Child Labor	15	71	8
Making a child do work that may disrupt their education and/or physical, mental or social development	13	74	8
Making a child work to pay off family debts	18	67	9
Online Threats	5	65	25
Exposing a child to violence, pornography or hate-speech online	7	72	15
Tricking or luring a child on the internet into meeting strangers off-line for sex	3	57	35

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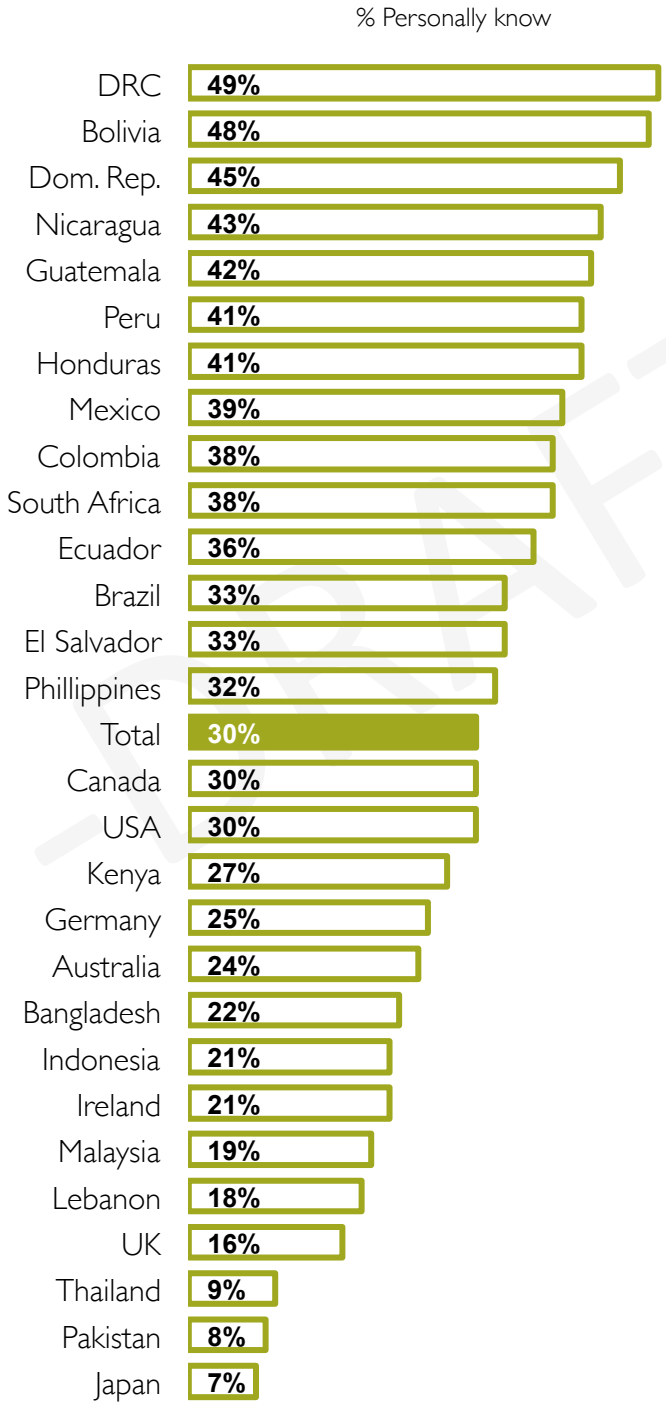
Personal Connection – By Country

"I know of family members, friends or neighbors who have been the victims of violence against children."



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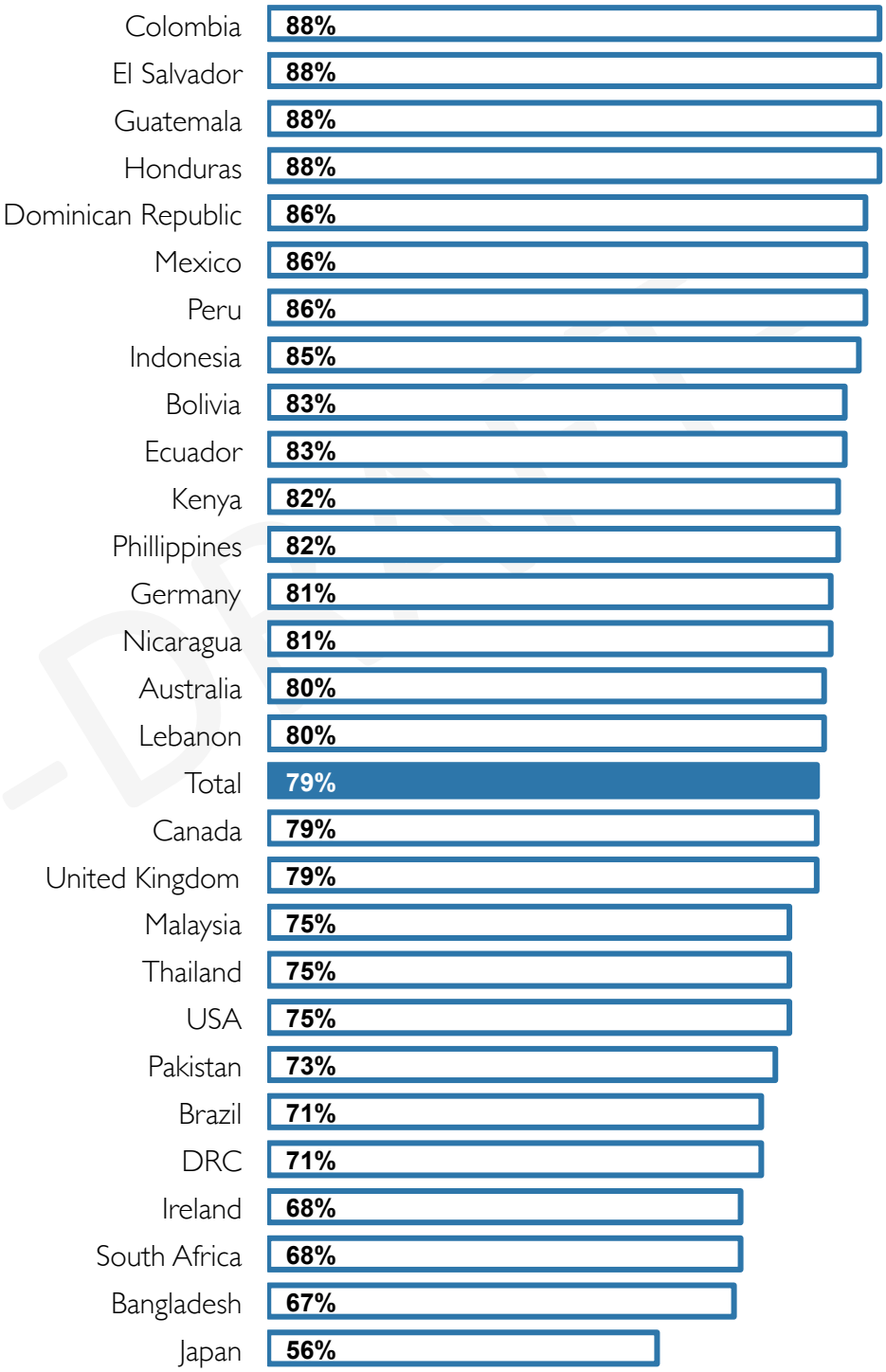
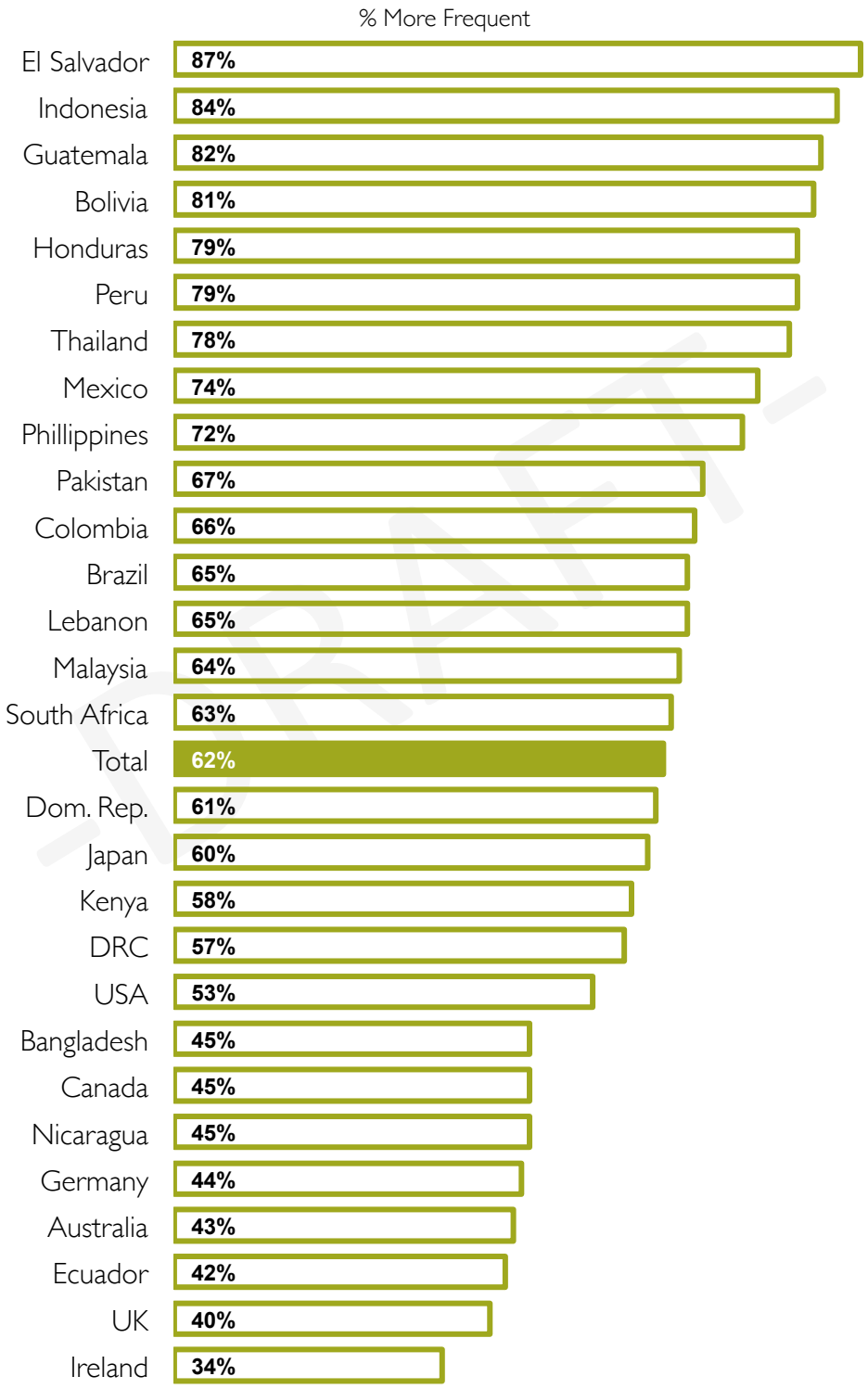
Unreported Violence – By Country

Most violence against children goes unreported so it is hard for anyone to know the extent of the problem. (% Agree)



Perception of Frequency – By Country



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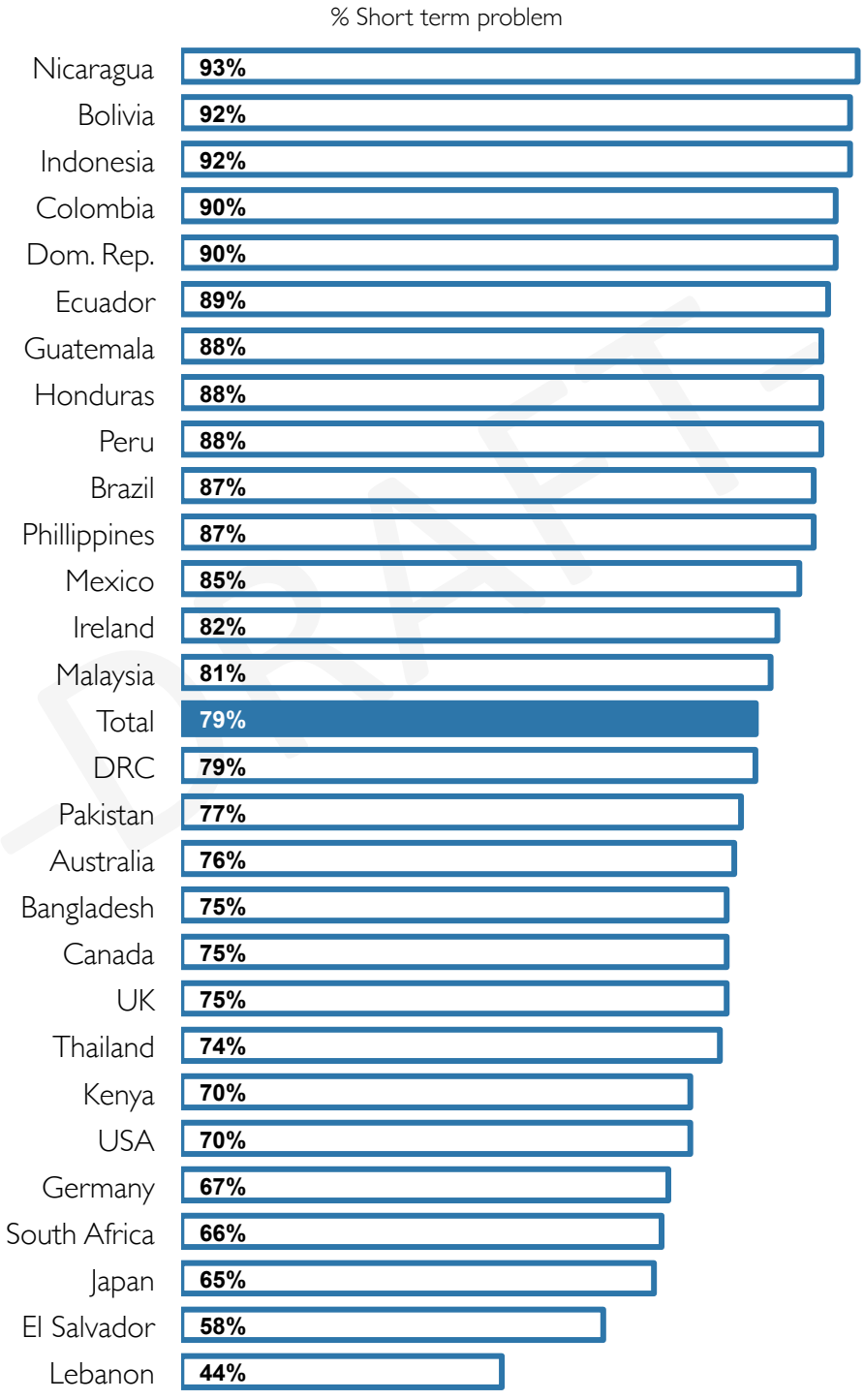
Perception as a Short Term Problem – By Country



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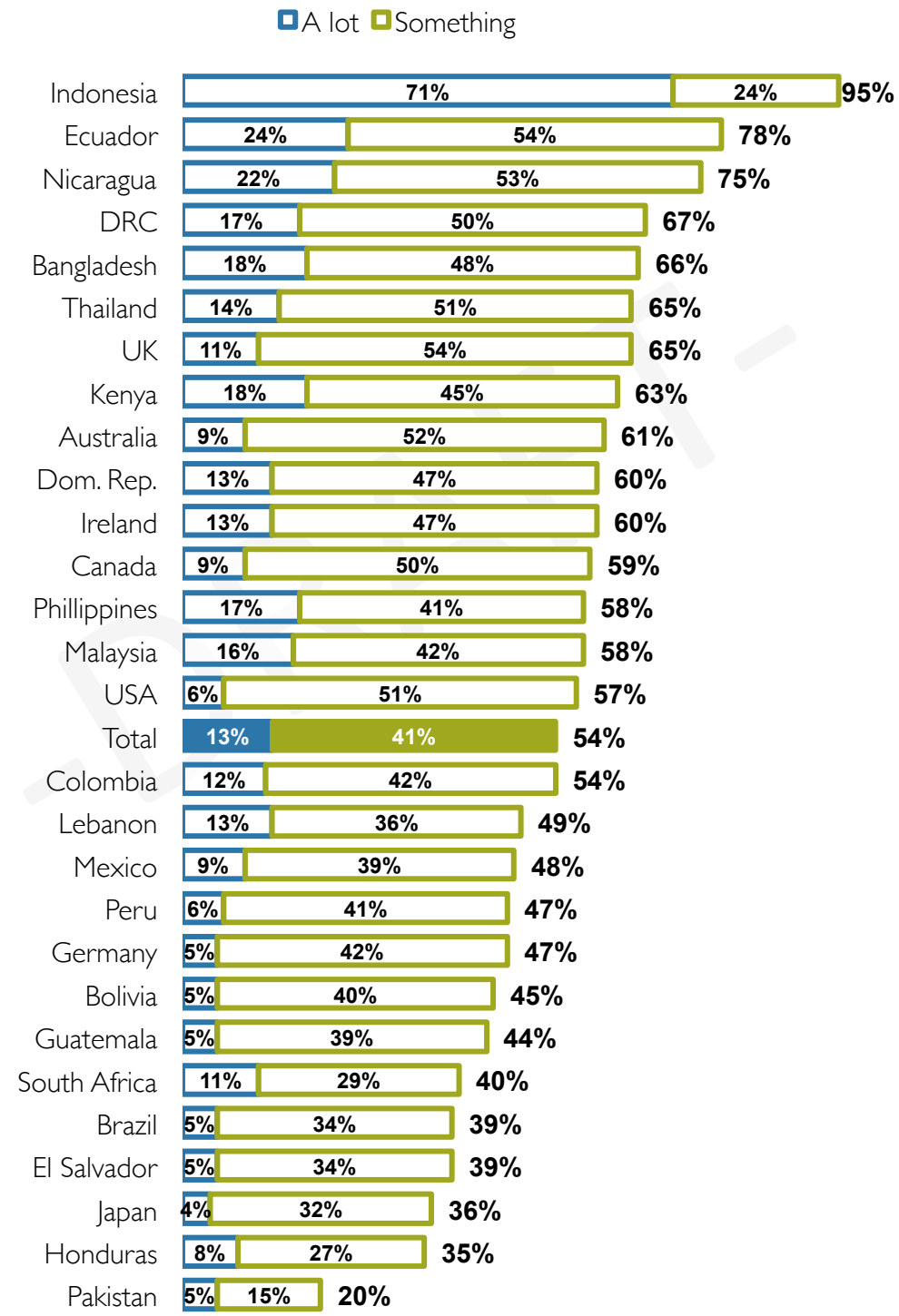
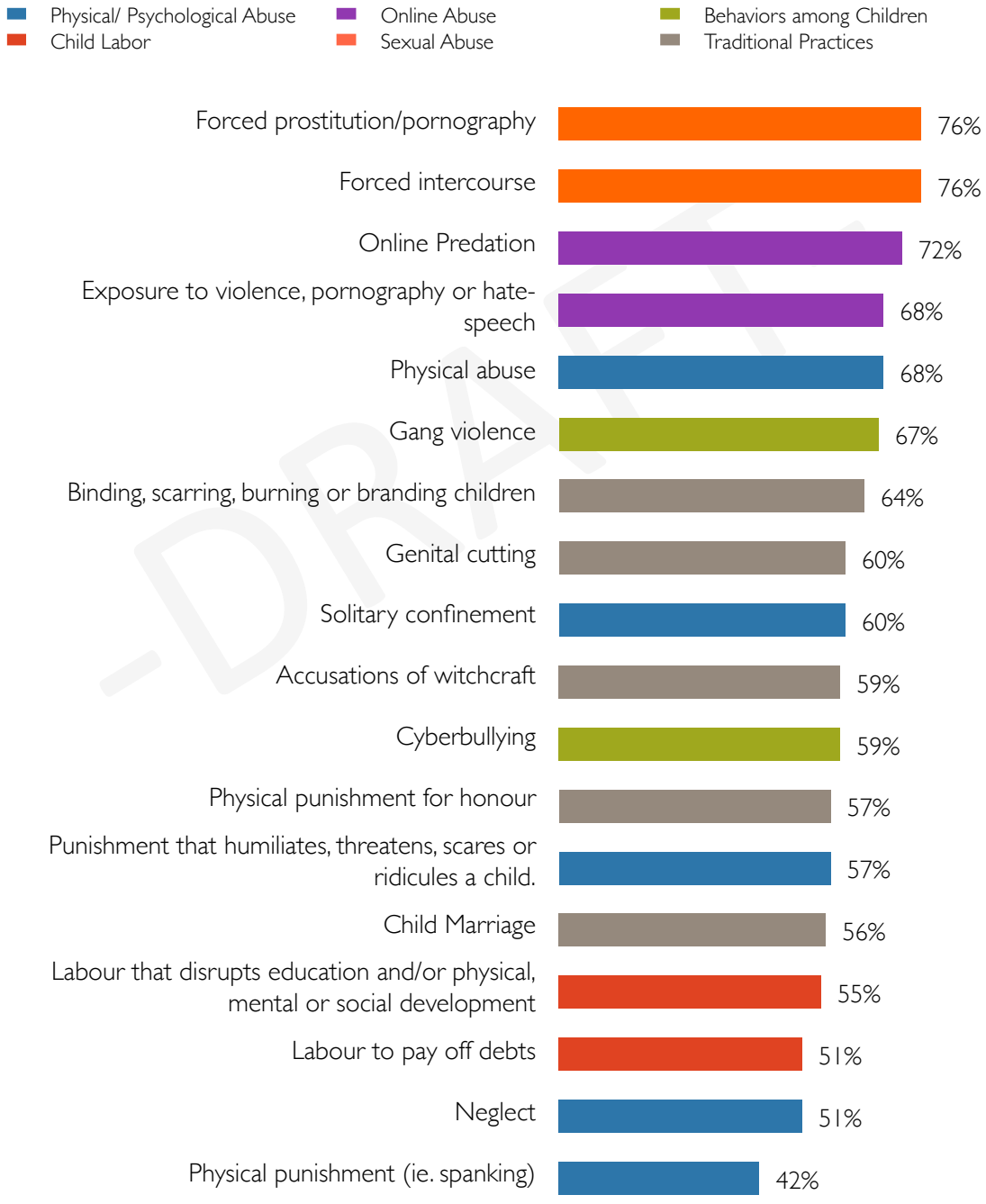
Current Level of Attention to the Problem – by Country



Measuring the Impact of Various Forms of Violence

% who say each form of violence has a very high impact on children in their country (rating 7 – "Very High Impact" on a 1-7 scale)



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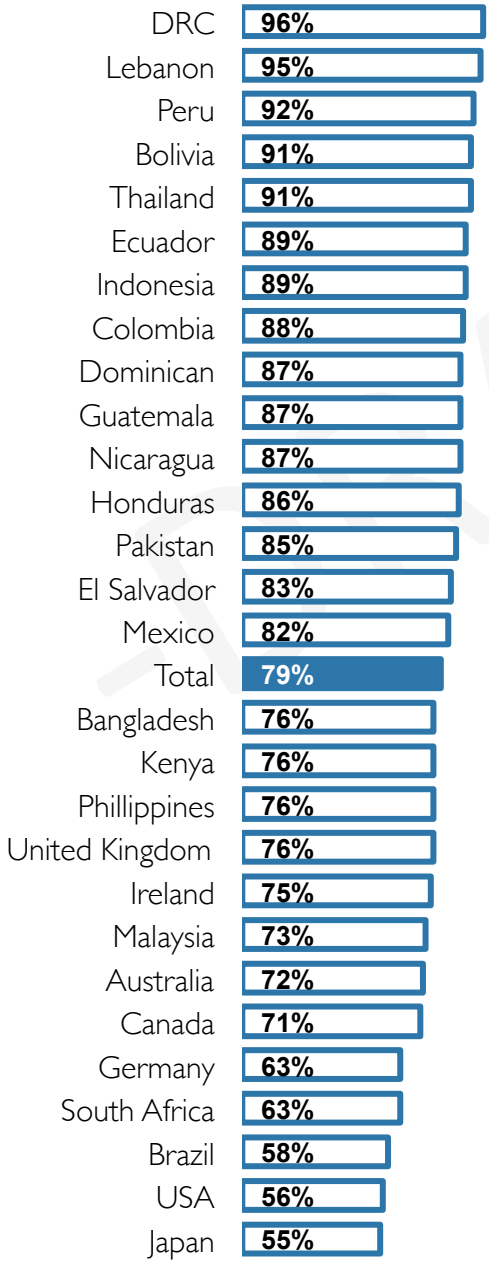
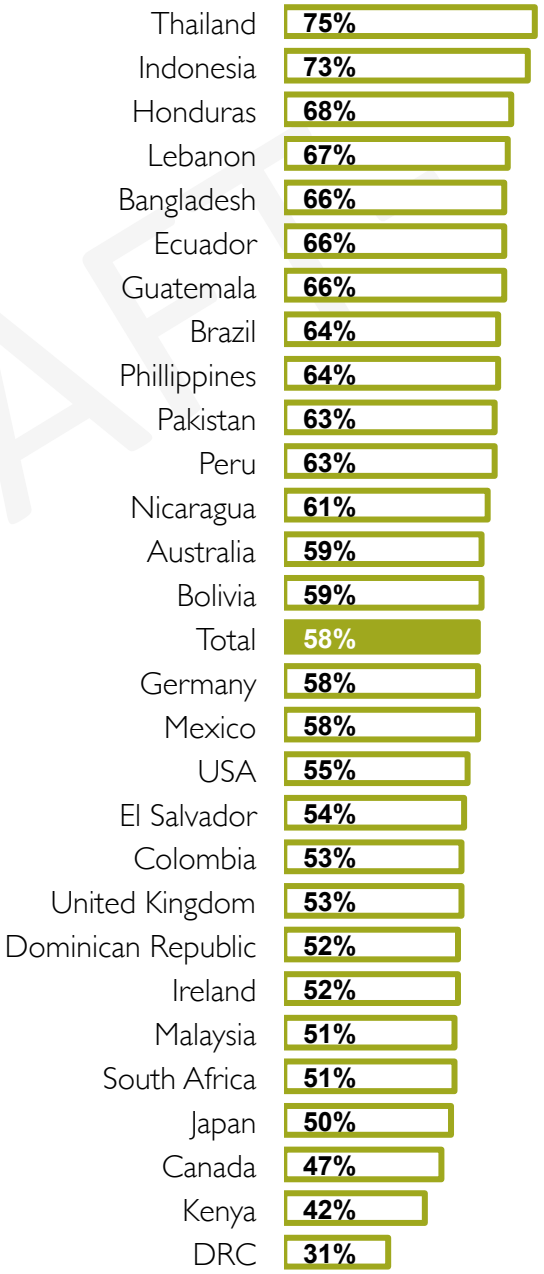
While most identify government as responsible for child protection, many see resources as lacking

It is the responsibility of governments to protect all children and to take steps to prevent violence. (% Agree)



Governments often don't have the means to address violence against children, no matter what the laws are. (% Agree)



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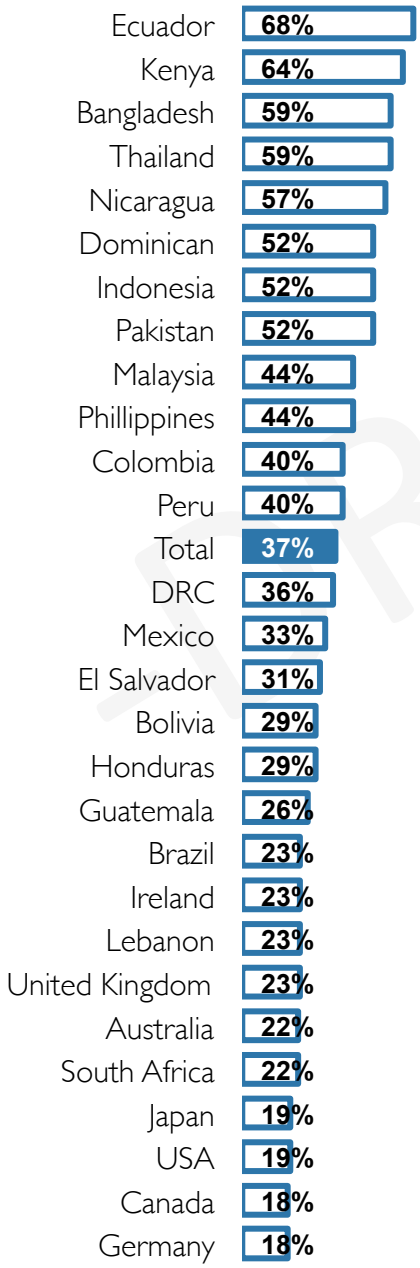
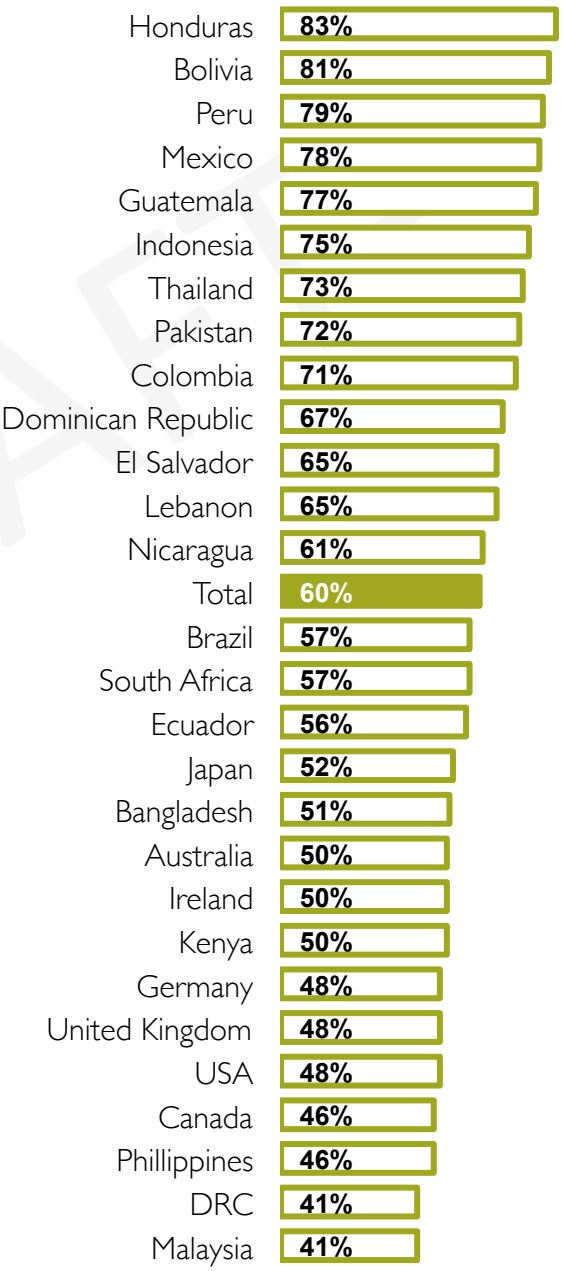
While some feel that their government is going enough, many feel that governments are unwilling to take action

My government is doing enough to punish those who commit violence against children (% Agree)



Governments are unwilling to take enough action to end violence against children (% Agree)



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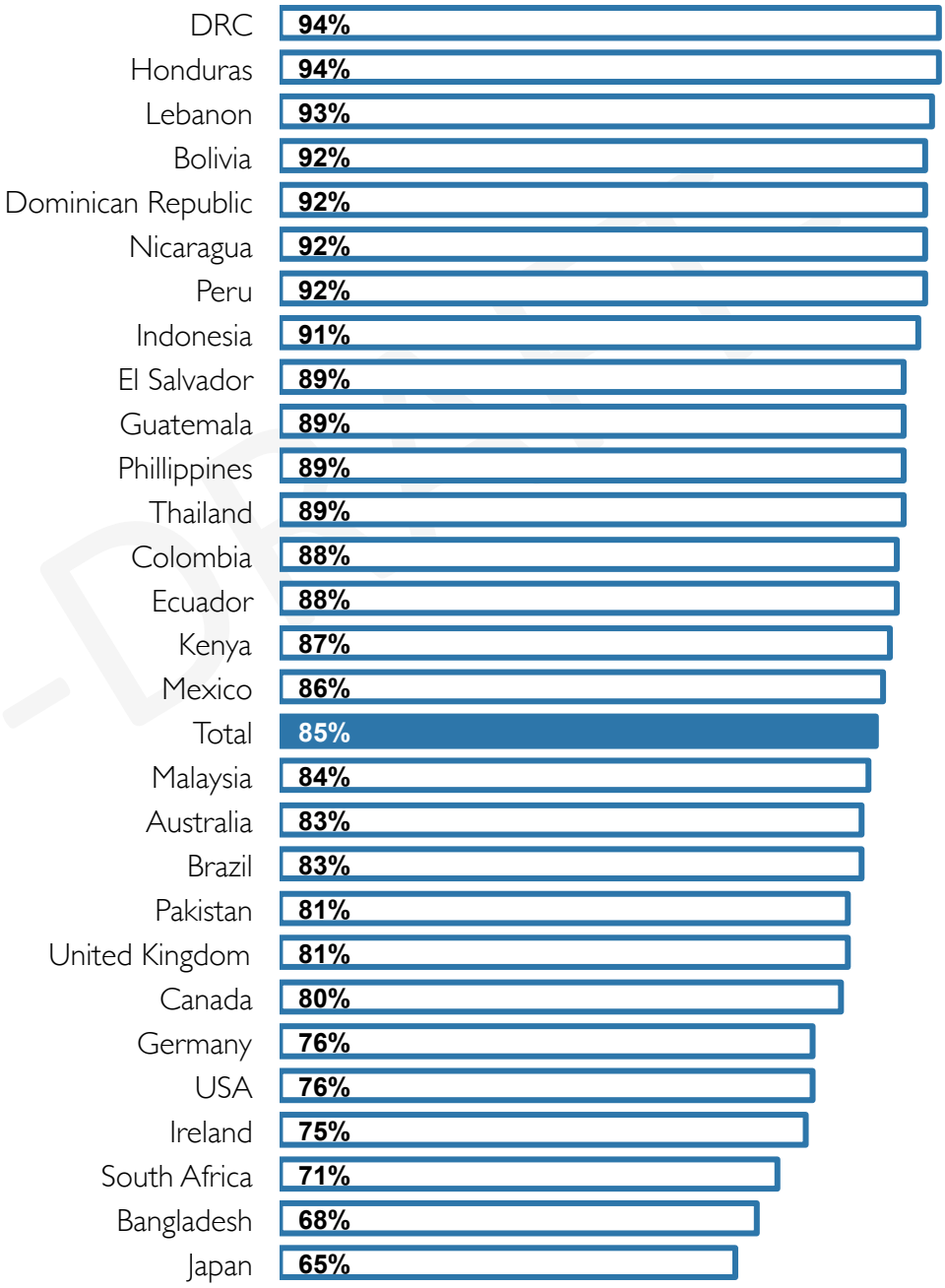
Need for collaboration between governments, non-profits and religious communities broadly felt

Governments, Not-for-profits, religious communities and local communities need to collaborate to address violence against children, rather than each acting independently. (% Agree)



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